

## Drainage Canal

By Otto Eckstein  
Read Before Alma Chautauqua.

At this week's meeting of the Alma Circle in Wichita Mr. O. G. Eckstein read an article on the "Chicago Drainage Canal." The Circle requested by resolution a publication of it follows:

A nation's progress is measured as much by its internal expansion as its territorial aggrandizement, and in large improvement we have kept pace with our territorial development. As a nation never stands still, it must retrograde or expand, and as characteristic of our national character, we take the progressive alternative, and expand. So in this decade, we met the opening of the largest artificial waterway in the world, namely, the Chicago canal, primarily a sanitary, and secondarily a ship canal.

Prior to 1835 the sanitary conditions in Chicago were primitive. The water was polluted in the lake, and it was a common thing to see the water from Lake Michigan supplying the inhabitants with water, and even then, the water was necessarily taken from far beyond the shore.

The legislature of Illinois appointed a commission in the early sixties to provide a system of drainage, and the engineer of the city of Chicago, John C. Schuyler, the originator of this scheme, was sent abroad, but nowhere found a system of sewerage. None of the old cities of Europe, strange as it may appear, had any system which we could use as a pattern. Chicago was thus thrown upon her own resources.

In the year 1870, when Chicago had a population of 250,000, the old Illinois and Michigan canal, which was built in 1849, was utilized. It was deepened and the first sewerage went down the Mississippi river by the Illinois and Des Plaines river.

In 1873 the water flow stopped, the natural tendency of the flow being towards the lake until we reach some thirty miles west of Chicago. Then it became necessary to pump the water at the suburbs of Bridgeport to cause a flow of water sufficient to carry the sewerage which was a total of about 40,000 cubic feet per minute.

So we have a mistaken impression that the present canal inaugurated the so-called solution of the Mississippi river, and it is not at all, it dates from 1870, though only a small canal. This system was a failure, however, as it required constant dredging, and in 1888 the question of a ship and drainage canal was agitated.

The legislature passed a drainage act in 1888, which provided for the construction of a canal sufficient to carry 20,000 feet of water per minute to every 100,000 inhabitants, making a full capacity of 40,000 feet per minute.

The oldest canal, which is the reversal of the eastward flow of the Chicago river into Lake Michigan, and the discharge of the lake into the Des Plaines valley. The Chicago river at this point diverted, was a foot higher than the lake, and the shore at points along the river over seven feet and the two to three of the river came together on the west side of the great city.

To accomplish this and utilize the waters of the lake, for the flow of the Chicago river was insufficient—it was necessary to build a great canal and provide a graduated, artificial fall.

The length of the canal proper outside of the auxiliary works is just twenty-six miles. Including this and the distance from the mouth of the Chicago river to the main channel, about six miles, makes a total of thirty-four miles.

The average depth is thirty feet and is built to carry twenty-two feet of water. It is 140 feet wide at the base, and at some places nearly 200.

The canal is only 128 feet wide at the surface, only seventy-two feet wide at the bottom, with a depth of twenty-six feet.

The controlling works are located at Lockport, thirty miles from Chicago, and these control the flow of water from the lake.

The fluctuations in Lake Michigan by the varying height of water surface, are felt at the controlling works, and provisions have been made to meet these fluctuations in Lake Michigan within a range of five feet above datum, and eight feet below, or an average fluctuation of thirteen feet.

The fall from there to the basin is about forty-two feet, in a distance of about four and one-third miles.

The controlling works comprise seven sluice gates, and a boat-trap dam, with an opening of 160 feet, and an oscillation of seventeen feet vertically, being essentially two huge metal leaves hinged together.

The total cost of construction, including bridges, right-of-way and administration, has been over thirty millions of dollars, being nearly one million of dollars per mile.

As an engineering feat, it far outclasses Suez, in that the surface of the water at both extremities of the latter was, and is, of the same height.

There was excavated in April, 1895, in one section alone 85,000 cubic feet of solid rock, a record which has never been equaled since man began to quarry stone.

As the commissioners estimate, the whole volume of solid material excavated in Lake Michigan in forty feet of water, would make an island one mile square, with its surface twelve feet above the water line.

As a ship canal, it is a wonderful possibility, having tributary to it a larger and richer territory than St. Mary's canal of northern Michigan, which carries more tonnage than any canal in the world, not even excepting the Suez canal.

Recently there has been considerable agitation on the question of the pollution of the Mississippi river.

The scientific investigation of this question is now with the State University of Illinois, which institution has secured water taken from the Mississippi during the regime of the old Illinois-Michigan canal, with samples of water taken since, prior to and after the opening of the canal in January of this year.

It was not intended to open the canal for some time, but the opening was necessary by an action of the city of St. Louis which applied for an injunction in the circuit court of Chicago and the supreme court at Washington. The authorities at Chicago being advised of the application for injunction, sent special representatives in all directions to bring in the evidence of the pollution of the Mississippi and in the dead of night, the engineers approved the work, as required in the organic act, and utilized the telegraph, upon receipt of which, the gates of Illinois closed its permit to ship and the water began to pour within the gates.

The motive for injunction was served most promptly, but St. Louis was beaten, and we now have direct water communication from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

It is a great misfortune of the canal to get only a conjecture. Why may it not

## IS THE PARTY OF DILEMMAS

Democrats are Up Against the Horned One in Their History.

To the Editor of the Eagle:

The Democratic party ought to begin to get used to dilemmas as they seem to be more common to them than any other body of men. Their national committee, met in Washington, D. C., last week. A correspondent of a Boston paper who supported Cleveland in 1892, says in the winding up of his report of the meeting: "Behind the scenes it was interesting to observe that a majority of the committee-men do not expect that W. J. Bryan can be elected. Upon the face of the situation they have no reasonable hope of his success, and his Democratic friends in control of the party machinery know it perfectly well, and yet all of them are willing to declare that his nomination is certain, and probably by unanimous vote of the convention. Here is a rather singular political paradox. But it has been brought about by sequences of events which time alone will develop. Its singular position inevitably commits its party to a candidate who it is aware will be beaten, before nominated. The Democratic party has abandoned its old creed of Free Trade state banks issue and are seeking the fusion of all or any of the side-show elements who are willing to help to defeat the best party in the history of the country. The original prime essence and cardinal doctrine of the old Democratic party, free trade, pro-slavery and states rights, free state banking and the extension of slavery, introduction of slavery into our new territory. But where are they now? Openly opposing the soundest and most stable currency bill any congress has ever presented, both of metallic and paper currency, while they are advocating the issue of a currency by the people, a 35-cent dollar on its intrinsic face value at 16 to 1. If the government steps from behind this dollar this policy would bankrupt the country in five years. Two-thirds of them voted a few days ago against the financial bill simply because it makes every dollar in circulation and that shall be placed there up to the value of a gold dollar or to the value of 100 cents. W. J. Bryan, a candidate for the presidency, is and has been proclaiming on the stump in opposition to the decision of the supreme court on the income tax bill. Mr. Bryan politically is all things to all who may see cause to fuse with him that he may gain their votes to help defeat the Republican party who gave him such a licking in 1896, for which he retains a bitter grudge. Known as a great orator, the Democracy place him at the head of their ticket we shall have to repeat the same thing the coming fall election. He must not stand in the way of our national prosperity as an obstructionist to our commercial and financial prosperity, either state or national. In all Mr. Bryan's public speeches he has not shown executive ability sufficient to enable him to the gift of the highest office in the country. As it takes a brainy, loyal and patriotic statesman to run this nation, the Democratic party seem to be changing for the worse and we are losing national honor and influence at the national capital, and we are losing power as a national party, and until they go back to the old landmarks of Jefferson, Monroe, Madison and Jackson they cannot expect to be a popular party. The changes they have made since 1857 have all been out of line with love of country and its best interests. They have not upheld the flag and the men behind it at all times as they should have done. By their opposition they are growing weaker, and weaker every year. They are not that great and popular party they were fifty years ago. Since the last presidential election the Republicans have gained four states, Kansas, Washington, South Dakota and Wyoming, and Mr. Bryan has weakened on free drainage, has changed to anti-expansion and anti-trust. They were badly defeated in 1896, and in 1898 we expect to over-duplicate that defeat. L. WILKINS.

## BORDER SOLDIERS

Great Generals Who Began Down on the Rio Grande.

The Rio Grande has, during the various wars that vexed its history, been a field for the soldiers of many armies, and any men who began their careers here have since risen to world wide fame. Here have served the soldiers of old Spain, of the Mexican republic, of the American Union, of the Confederacy, the Empire and France. Grant, Taylor, Porfirio Diaz, Manuel Gonzalez and Jefferson Davis rose to the highest positions in the gift of their fellow countrymen, who were to rise to be celebrated as heroes. Lee, Wallace, Ochs, Lawton and many others have written their names on the imperishable pages of the history of their respective countries. There were many gallant young officers, then unknown to fame, who served under the old Rough and Ready in the campaign from Point Isabel to Buena Vista. Grant, who was to rise to be celebrated as a hero, was the greatest captain the world has seen, and who also was ruler of his country; and who received his baptism of fire in the assault on the ciudadela at Monterey; Lee, Bragg, Hardie, May, Worth, Davis, Johnson, Twiggs, etc. While opposed to them were such men as Arista, Ampudia, de la Vega and Santa Anna himself, more than one of whom rose to the supreme power.

Of this galaxy of great men I have personally met, and that only casually as a journalist, says a writer in the Mexican Herald, but three Diaz, Grant and Davis, the latter when he was president of the Southern Life of Memphis. But of those who came after I recollect a good many. Sheridan was down on the river towards the close of the Confederate war, and I believe it was after a particularly muddy ride from San Antonio to Houston, that he made his famous unfavorable comparison between the Lone Star state and the realms of his Satanic majesty. Mejia, who died with Maximilian at Queretaro, was a full blooded Indian and a thorough soldier of the old school of Mexico. Bernard P. Bee, about the only Confederate of note, who held command on the river, was the type of the old Texas planter, but of not much weight as a soldier, and I do not recollect any Frenchman, who after rose to be of any note, as having served on the frontier. Of Mexican liberal officers there were a host. Manuel Gonzalez, president from 1880 to 1884 was born near Matamoros, as was Pedro Hinojosa, and besides those elsewhere mentioned General Trevino, Negrete, Naranjo, Sosteros Rocha and many others of less note defended Mexico in the darkest hours of her history amid the dense chaparral along the Rio Bravo.

Of the local chieftains, much has already been said in these papers of Canales, Carbajal and Cortina, but one not generally known of the latter has not been mentioned. He was originally a very illiterate man, and having been raised on one of the ranches distant from the towns, and what was still worse at that time, as far as educational privileges were concerned, on the Texas side of the river; he could neither read or write, until he had become a personage of considerable importance. But he was naturally a man of great shrewdness and application. After he had risen to power he learned to sign his name with a most dashing free hand and an imposing scroll below, and got so that he could catch the gist of a document enough to detect any grave discrepancy when read to him, and was, in those days, to the man who fooled with Cortina.

A rupture between the Mexican liberal government and the United States was nearly occasioned in November, 1886, by Canales, who refused to recognize the authority of Generals Tapia and Guzman, holding Matamoros against them and General Escobedo who was sent with reinforcements to take command. Gen. Solvick, the American commander in Brownsville, sent a force to occupy the heroic city, and Escobedo ordered him to leave, and even attacked the fortifications, but was driven off by Canales. The American troops finally left on Canales and Escobedo patching up an arrangement. But for a time serious trouble was imminent.

The post of Fort Brown as it now exists, was built under the orders, I think, of Brig. Gen. Alexander McDowell, now on the retired list. He was one of the family of fighting McDowells and was universally popular. The place as he made it for a battalion of infantry and two troops of cavalry and the same number of batteries of artillery, the buildings all of brick, is one of the most commodious in the republic.

Of course I recollect best those officers who have been in Texas and along the frontier since the Confederate war, and the Imperial times. The first of the commanders of the department of Texas whom I knew well was Brig. Gen. Christopher Columbus Angur who died in Jan. soldier of the old school, a most polished gentleman, devout Episcopalian and a lover of society. Under his regime San Antonio became quite a social center and all kinds of diversions were the order of the day, of which the Angurs were the center and the prime movers, and it was quite the proper thing for officers and civilians, who had not formed any previous religious affiliations, to join the church. A good society was formed at the time that Capt. Comby, the commander of the arsenal, was confirmed, and so much so that he had found it convenient to restrict himself from a too free indulgence in the good things of life. The hour set for the ceremony was 11 a. m. and the captain went through the formal with great eclat until the challenge of witness was passed to him, when, as the practical jokers present all declared, he drew back, saying to the rector in scarcely audible tones and with a reproachful glance:

"As you know, Mr. Richardson, I never drink anything before 12 o'clock."

Angur's successor was much more of a soldier and cared but little for the pleasures of society. Gen. Ord, the father of Mrs. Gen. Ord Trevino. He was very plain in his way. I recollect seeing him once going in a government ambulance from Fort Clark to Eagle Pass. He was dressed in a common soldier's uniform, and sat on the front seat, talking with the Irish driver, while his aide de camp, Lt. Ord, known among the boys as "Pouter," in a gorgeous cavalry livery cloak, sprawled over the back seat in regal magnificence. "Pouter" was inclined to be ebullient, and used to have his subordinates very tight about the waist, where he buttoned them and left the upper part open and puffed out, which gave him the resemblance to a pouter pigeon, hence his nickname.

Gen. Sykes, a gallant corps commander of the Army of the Potomac, who not being in accord with the powers that were was left a simple colonel of the 25th infantry after the war, was in command at Fort Brown during the '70s and died there. He was a great martinet, though a thorough soldier and most desperate fighter. At that time the signal service

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Table Syrup, per gallon..... 30c  
Full pound Salmon..... 20c  
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Mocha and Java Coffee, lb..... 25c  
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## East Side Racket

528 East Douglas.

had the frontier posts connected with San Antonio by a line of telegraph. The man named Williams, who had drifted into the service at some western town. He was a good operator and a fine hand at taking press but utterly green as to army etiquette. One day the line went down and Williams sauntered off down into the garrison to ask for a detail of cavalry to go out and put the line again. Lieutenant Gen. Sykes' private office in the administration building he dropped into a chair and blurted out:

"Well, general, that blamed old line is busted again, and I wish you—"

Sykes froze him with a glance of friend and asked: "Who are you, sir?"

Williams replied that he was the signaller and sergeant up in town.

"How dare you, sir, appear before the commanding officer without your military uniform," growled Sykes, "and to speak before you are addressed?" waving him away.

The nonplussed Williams sneaked out, scouted over to the quartermaster's store and drew a pair of ready-made soldier's pants and a cap, went back to his office and raked an old signal service jacket out of his trunk, and very humbly again appeared before the general, who sternly ordered him to stand at attention, and after keeping him there until he thought his lessons in discipline were impressed, allowed him to present his request and depart. Williams after that in all his intercourse with the general handled him as gingerly as a live shell.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

MIDNIGHT IN CHINATOWN.

The story of "Midnight in Chinatown" opens in the mountains of California at Mountain Top House, a resort as well as a country home of the owner of Bonanza mine. Scouring here are the mine owner's two daughters, Mary, the eldest, is the fiancée of Joe Wallace, the engineer, who has long been associated with Murray, the mine owner. Late arrivals are Frank Meredith, the adventurer, and his companion, Blanche Graham, also Kate Danley, an old friend of the Murphys, and a devoted wife of Meredith.

he escapes with the money. Joe revives and discovers the robbery, and also Kate, blows the whistle for help; Murray and the various characters hasten to the scene. Mary's note is read by Murray, who asks for an explanation. Joe shields Mary, and at this moment Kate revives sufficiently to call "Joe." Consternation ensues and the curtain falls on the belief that Joe Wallace has attempted the murder of the unfortunate Kate.

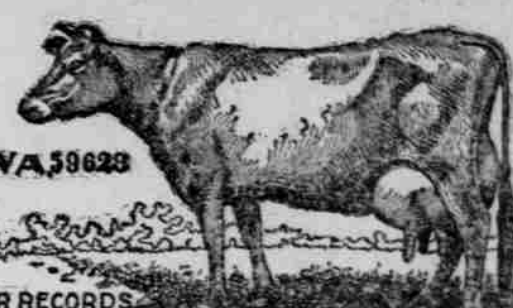
This is the outline of the first act of "Midnight in Chinatown," to be presented at the Crawford theatre Monday night. The story throughout possesses intense best interest, sensational situations and melodramatic climaxes. Bright comedy is bound up in the plot, and especially during the action, and high class specialties, by clever vaudeville performers, are introduced in a scene especially arranged for these interpolations in act four.

In the play "The Burglar" the spectators are led through a series of home pictures to the scene of a repulsive burglar discovered red-handed in his nefarious calling by a child scarce seven years of age, who, unusual to relate, instead of being scared out of her wits at the intruder, is more alarmed that her loved ones, father and mother, shall be disturbed or bodily injured by coming in contact with the midnight wanderer. The child in her precocious fear for others is willing to aid the burglar in his selection of plunder, and an interview between the two has no counterpart in the annals of theatrical lore. It must be seen to be appreciated.

BOBOM FRIENDS.

While Comedy company played a fairly successful matinee yesterday afternoon, but had a light and unresponsive house, last night. The acting did not seem to please as well as Friday and the work seemed to drag and lack interest. The specialty work of Joe Leslie and the Little Sister Sisters was applauded.

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